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The Garden Nurseries

1915

when spread on the surface, as the worms and rains will bring the black humus down under the surface, where it, of course, will do the most good in retaining moisture.

For flower beds we find it exceedingly valuable, two bags of humus spaded into a bed four feet wide by twelve feet long will not only feed the plants, but will hold over two barrels of water in suspension to be utilized gradually by the plants. I do not mean to say that it is not necessary to water a bed that has been supplied with humus, as very likely water will be needed after a prolonged drought.

If a mulch of humus has been applied to the surface in addition to that which was incorporated in the soil, this surface layer is a mulch, and preserves moisture, I am positive that not more than one thorough watering each month will be necessary in such a bed. For flower beds we prepare humus according to a certain formula, which contains more plant nourishing elements than the humus itself, thereby insuring best possible results. In the flower garden and vegetable garden two hundred pounds of "Garden Formula Humus" equals in value a two-horse wagon load of fresh manure, and it would not add any weed seeds to the growers troubles.

Many home grounds and lawns in certain sections of Cynwyd and Ardmore are made up of entirely barren soil or sand, and practically void of humus. This condition is indicated by the color of the soil. Under such conditions particularly, Humus is the one essential needed; the Garden Formula Humus being perhaps the best, as it is a complete fertilizer.

Pure Humus, \$1.25 per bag; 6 bags for \$5.00; \$11.00 per ton.

Garden Formula Humus, \$2.00 per bag; 6 bags for \$10.00; ton, \$20.00

PLEASE NOTE:- The prices quoted include delivery. No freight, no cartage charges.

THE GARDE NURSERIES.

FERTILIZERS FOR THE HOME GROUNDS.

This is the time to get lawns, flower beds and gardens properly fertilized; the question is, what is the most appropriate manure or fertilizer for the purpose? As the average lawn in the suburbs was not prepared too well and is not infrequently made from subsoil dug out of a cellar, I take for granted that the lawn is apt to need the most attention - or, at least, need first consideration. One of the necessary elements in soil when grass and foliage growth is desired is Humus. This is the black deposit formed from decayed vegetation.

The value of Humus is three-fold. In early spring it absorbs heat, inasmuch as it blackens the soil, and the dark soil absorbs the rays of the sun; while the lighter soil reflects the heat rays. In the summer it is valuable on account of its water absorbing and retaining capacity; humus will absorb over ten times its weight in water, and hold this water practically all summer if unmixed with soil. We had a pile of humus last summer piled up for three months in dry weather, and it did not receive a single drop of moisture in that length of time; when we began treating this pile in September, we found it exactly as moist as when it was made. The only way to drive the moisture out of humus is by spreading it out thin on a hard surface.

The third value of humus is in its fertilizing elements. Its tendency is to produce top growth: branches, leaves and flowers, but not seeds. For this very reason it is the most excellent medium for lawns. For best results, of course, it should be incorporated in the soil to a depth of not less than six inches; but it is also effective